

IV. REMARKS**A. EXAMINER TELEPHONE INTERVIEW**

Applicants are grateful for the courtesy of a telephone interview by the primary Examiner, Ms. Yvonne R. Abbott, with the Applicants' representatives, Mr. Stanislaus Aksman and Mr. Laba Karki on January 14 and 15 to discuss a few remaining issues in the application in view of the Amendment of October 22, 2003.

At the interview, the Examiner raised three objections: 1) some of the words in the specification including the claims of the application contained British style spellings; 2) new claim 114 appeared to be incomplete, namely that section "f" ended with "and"; 3) claims 8 and 56 were still considered indefinite under section 112, second paragraph, as lacking antecedent basis for "the means for storing a milk sample".

Applicants agreed to change the spellings to American style. Applicants also advised that they would amend claim 114 to recite the missing section "g", identical to that of claim 113, which was originally intended but inadvertently omitted during submission of the previous Amendment. Accordingly, claim 114 has been amended in this supplemental amendment. With regard to the third issue, Applicants suggested amending claims 8 and 56 to depend from claims 6 and 54, respectively, as the latter contained the antecedent basis for "the means for storing a milk sample". Applicants suggested adding new dependent claims 115 and 116 that would depend from claims 1-3 and 49, respectively, and would recite "a means for storing milk sample". The Examiner agreed to this proposal.

Further, Applicants addressed two other informalities in the application that Applicants had identified: 1) claim 98 appeared to be missing from the listing of claims in the previously submitted Amendment; 2) a typographical error existed in claim 113 section "g", subsection "iii", line 5, wherein the word "date" should have been "data". The Examiner acknowledged these informalities and agreed they should be corrected.

The Examiner indicated that the above amendments will place all claims in condition for allowance.

B. SPECIFICATION IS AMENDED TO CORRECT SPELLINGS

Applicants have amended the specification to correct the British style spellings to American style for several words, including: analysing, analyses, optimising, recognisable, recognising, utilisation, homogenising, parlours, minimise, organise, characterised, and colour.

C. CLAIMS 8, 56 and 114 ARE AMENDED, NEW CLAIMS 115, 116, 117 and 118 ARE ADDED

Applicants have amended claims 8, 56 and 114 as agreed at the interview. Further, consistent with the interview, Applicants have added new depended claims 115 and 116. Applicants have also added new dependent claims 117 and 118, based on the original claim 37. The amendments are fully supported by the specification and do not introduce new matter or issues.

D. REQUEST FOR INDICATION OF CORRECTION OF PATENT DRAWINGS APPROVAL

Applicants request an indication of approval of the proposed correction of Figure 1, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 7, 2003.

E. REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

All claims continue to be patentable and in condition for allowance for all the reasons set forth in the Amendment filed on October 22, 2003, incorporated herein by reference. An indication of allowance of all claims is solicited. If any issues remain outstanding, Applicants would appreciate the courtesy of a telephone call to their undersigned counsel to resolve such issues in an expeditious manner to place the application in condition for allowance.

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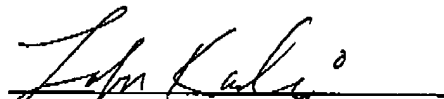
Applicants believe that no fees are necessary in connection with this Supplemental Amendment. If any fees are needed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

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By:


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